

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*

CRIMINAL NO: 07-352

v.

*

SECTION: "N"

*

DARREN PAUL

*

*

*

*

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States would prove the defendant, **DARREN PAUL's**, guilt beyond a reasonable doubt of the violation alleged in Count One of the Fifth Superseding Indictment through the following credible testimony and reliable evidence:

Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted an investigation into the drug trafficking activities of **DARREN PAUL** and others in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere. The investigation included the use of information from FBI agents, DEA agents, state and local law enforcement officers, and confidential sources. Agents analyzed pen register information and telephone toll records, conducted surveillance and made controlled narcotics purchases and seizures from members of this drug trafficking conspiracy. All substances obtained from members of the organization tested positive for cocaine hydrochloride or heroin.

The FBI also utilized federal court ordered Title III wiretaps. On June 14, 2007, the

Honorable Kurt D. Engelhardt, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, issued an Order authorizing the interception of wire communications made over telephone numbers (504) 609-6787 and (504) 270-3002, utilized by SHELDON DEAN. Interception of wire communications to and from (504) 270-3002 continued until July 13, 2007. Interception of wire communications to and from (504) 609-6787 continued until August 11, 2007. Wire intercepts of (504) 270-3002 and (504) 609-6787 revealed that SHELDON DEAN and others were distributing heroin and other illegal drugs in the Eastern District of Louisiana. The wire interception revealed that KEVIN COCKERHAM supplied SHELDON DEAN and others with illegal drugs.

Accordingly, agents applied for a wire interception of a telephone utilized by KEVIN COCKERHAM. On July 20, 2007, Judge Engelhardt issued an Order authorizing the interception of wire communications made over telephone number (504) 957-2288, utilized by KEVIN COCKERHAM. Interception of wire communications to and from (504) 957-2288 continued until September 13, 2007. On August 22, 2007, Judge Engelhardt issued an Order authorizing the interception of wire communications made over telephone number (832) 473-9793, utilized by COREY MUSE. Interception of (832) 473-9793 ended on September 13, 2007.

The intercepted wire communications, along with physical surveillance, showed that COREY MUSE supplied KEVIN COCKERHAM with cocaine hydrochloride and heroin. From February 2007 until September 2007, COREY MUSE employed **DARREN PAUL** to drive heroin and cocaine hydrochloride from Houston, Texas to New Orleans, Louisiana for distribution to KEVIN COCKERHAM and others in New Orleans. During the course of the wire interception, agents intercepted multiple telephone calls between **DARREN PAUL** and KEVIN COCKERHAM wherein

DARREN PAUL updated KEVIN COCKERHAM on his location and arrival time from Houston. For example, on August 29, 2007, agents intercepted a call between COREY MUSE and KEVIN COCKERHAM in which COREY MUSE informed KEVIN COCKERHAM that “D is on his way . . . he has been gone an hour and half or two.” COREY MUSE told KEVIN COCKERHAM to call **DARREN PAUL** on his phone. Subsequently, agents intercepted a phone call between KEVIN COCKERHAM and **DARREN PAUL** wherein **DARREN PAUL** told KEVIN COCKERHAM that he was in “BR” . . . KEVIN COCKERHAM told **DARREN PAUL** that he would be at the house. Later in the day, agents intercepted a telephone call in which **DARREN PAUL** told KEVIN COCKERHAM that he was on the Bonne Carre’ going through Kenner. KEVIN COCKERHAM told **DARREN PAUL** that he was waiting on him and that he should come by the house.

DEA agents conducting surveillance at KEVIN COCKERHAM’s residence in New Orleans on August 29, 2007, would testify that after these calls they saw **DARREN PAUL** enter the driveway of the residence and KEVIN COCKERHAM get into the vehicle **DARREN PAUL** was driving. Agents saw **DARREN PAUL** manipulating the dashboard of the vehicle then both men were seen exiting the vehicle and entering the residence. **DARREN PAUL** was seen carrying a large black duffle bag containing the drugs COREY MUSE had hidden in the dashboard into KEVIN COCKERHAM’s residence. Three minutes later, agents saw **DARREN PAUL** leave KEVIN COCKERHAM’s residence with the duffle bag, enter his vehicle and leave. After their transaction, **DARREN PAUL** and COREY MUSE were intercepted in a telephone call wherein **DARREN PAUL** told COREY MUSE “everything’s straight, baby.” COREY MUSE replied, “yeah, I talked to him [KEVIN COCKERHAM].”

The undersigned prosecutor and FBI Special Agents assigned to this investigation have done

a thorough review of all drug types and quantities provable during the entire course of the conspiracy. The amount of narcotics that **DARREN PAUL** was responsible for distributing or that was reasonably foreseeable to him as being distributed in this case includes a total quantity of at least 5 kilograms but not more than 15 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride and 1 kilogram but not more than 3 kilograms of heroin. This assessment was arrived at through careful analysis of all confidential informant purchases, wire interceptions, consensually monitored telephone calls, law enforcement surveillance, telephone records analysis, distributions, and witness interviews.

READ AND APPROVED:

EMILY K. GREENFIELD (LA 28587)
Assistant United States Attorney

DATE

Joseph Marino ()
Counsel for Defendant

DATE

Darren Paul
Defendant

DATE